

# Test Prep Tools and Tips

Provide a test-prep passage to read as a whole class, then provide 3-4 warm-up questions on this passage for the rest of the week. Addressing these answers in smaller increments will allow you to better see who gets it and who doesn't.

Make sure each and every student has their own way to work a type of figurative language into the first paragraph of ANY essay. Revise old topics, quiz on new topics. Whatever it takes! It could bump them to a higher point range.

Do your students know the difference between "In the Text" questions and "In Your Head" questions? This skill goes a long way towards developing a test-attack strategy. Ask your literacy coach for more information or to teach a QAR lesson in your class.

Meet with each of your students in the first week of your spiral unit to show them last year's score and have them set a goal for this year's score.

Show a weekly motivational video on Youtube and lead a discussion about how state testing is a lot like other life hurdles and opportunities for victory.

Whenever possible, turn test prep activities into a game. Universal categories include:

Literal Q's · Inferential Q's · Figurative Language · RACE · Use Context Clues · Elimination Challenge

The 5 P's of Test Prep  
Prepare  
Peppermint (Placebo Effect)  
Physical Activity  
Powerful Phrases  
Process

Remember that the hardest questions for our students are "Why did the author write this passage/paragraph/sentence?" Author's viewpoint!